

Following Jesus
13, Principles of Kingdom Living #4:
Get a Grip (on what matters)
Matthew 6:19-34

- I. Message – “Principles of kingdom-living #4
 - a. Focus on permanent values – “19 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth...”
 - i. “Don’t treasure up earthly treasures”
 - 1. Jesus’ emphasis here is on luxuries (things we don’t NEED)
 - 2. Jesus is condemning the idea of stockpiling extras
 - a. He’s not condemning having things
 - b. Jesus is not condemning having or using things or money
 - c. “Luxuries”
 - i. Here is one of the conundrums of living by faith is summed up in Proverbs 3:9-10 “Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: 10 So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.”
 - 1. When we honor God with our stuff
 - 2. When we follow biblical principles
 - 3. He often blesses with financial success
 - 4. Many of you experience that right now
 - ii. But that very “success” can become our curse!
 - 1. God blesses us with more than we need
 - 2. And we start to stockpile it hoard it
 - a. Jesus could not be more clear: “Don’t treasure up earthly treasures
 - b. That is not what my subjects do
 - ii. Instead, stockpile eternal valuables
 - 1. 20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven...”
 - 2. Here is a simple axiom: If you don’t have an earthly possession...
 - 3. You don’t worry about losing it!
 - 4. Why? Limited attachment
 - 5. 21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.
 - a. You know this to be true if you invest personally in something
 - b. Notice, Jesus is again going after motive, the heart
 - c. The problem is that your singular focus will change YOU over time
 - i. “22 The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. 23

But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!"

- ii. This is what Jesus is saying: If your view of money is wrong, it will affect everything
- iii. Your view of the world, your view of life, will be WRONG!
 - 1. Fortunately, temporal goods can be converted, redeemed for eternal purpose!
 - 2. 1 Timothy 6:17-19 "Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; 18 That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; 19 Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life."
- iv. Owning much is not a sin
- v. Owning much a great responsibility!

b. Serve the permanent Master

- i. Most people serve temporary "masters"
- ii. The subjects of Jesus's kingdom serve the permanent Master
- iii. "24 No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."
 - 1. Serve God
 - a. Romans 6:22 "But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life."
 - b. Don't resent God's claim on your life
 - 2. Serve stuff (self)
 - a. You are walking by sight, not by faith
 - b. John Calvin said this, "Where riches hold the dominion of the heart God has lost His authority."

c. Prioritize permanent assets

Some people are hoarding more and more things. Their sin is selfishness

Some people are worried they won't have the things they need. Their sin is worry

Jesus says, both attitudes are wrong!

Both are a preoccupation with earthy rather than heaven

- i. Don't worry over temporary assets
 - 1. This is the point Jesus is making
 - a. "25 Take no thought" (don't be anxious)
 - b. "28 Why are you taking thought?" (why are you anxious?)
 - c. "31 Therefore take no thought" (don't be anxious)
 - d. "34 Take therefore no thought" (don't be anxious)
 - i. In other words
 - ii. Don't worry about it!
 - e. Worry doesn't line up with what your faith is in
 - i. "26 Behold the fowls of the air..."
 - ii. "28...Consider the lilies of the field..."
 - iii. "30 Wherefore, if God so [feed the birds and] clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?"
 - 1. If you feel some nervousness about sacrificing for the kingdom, that is normal!
 - 2. But God is promising that prioritizing his kingdom will never be the wrong thing!
 - 3. The birds are NOT worried about their next meal
 - 4. They are not even thinking about it. Why?
 - 5. Psalm 147:9 "He giveth to the beast his food, and to the young ravens which cry."
 - iv. Habakkuk 3:17-19
 - 1. "[If everything goes wrong]...Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation."
 - 2. Modern Parallel: How much would living like Matt 6:25-32 derail you?
 - a. Although the pantry ran out of food,
 - b. ...and my bank account is in overdraft,
 - c. ...the 401k is empty
 - d. ..and my car won't start...
 - e. If EVERYTHING goes wrong
 - 3. Will I rejoice in the Lord?
 - 4. Or will I worry?
 - 5. Worry doesn't line up with your faith
- f. Worry doesn't line up with Who your Father is
 - i. "32...for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things."

- ii. He knows your needs
- iii. And He has promised to supply

ii. Seek permanent assets instead (convert and redeem)

1. 33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”
2. What permanent assets should I seek? (kingdom of God and righteousness)
 - a. The reign of Jesus – The kingdom of God
 - i. Christ’s rule in your life now
 - ii. Christ’s rule over the lives of others
 - iii. Christ’s rule upon earth later
 - iv. Sum it up: Eternal values
 1. Jesus says that if you have a commodity with no intrinsic eternal value, you can convert it, redeem it, “eternalize” it!
 2. Whatever you keep here you lose, whatever you send ahead by investment in the lives and the souls of those around you, you keep forever!
 - b. Permanent asset #2 – The goodness of Jesus
 - i. God’s righteousness
 - ii. It is the only way into God’s presence
 - iii. It should be our top priority!

II. Conclusions – Ecclesiastes 12:13 “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. 14 For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.”

- a. Conclusion #1 – Do you have a stockpile of earthly treasures that should be converted to eternal treasure?
- b. Conclusion #2 – Do you need a new boss (not actually change your job, but change your Master?)
- c. Conclusion #3 – Are you worried? Do you need to confess that as sin and learn to live by faith in your good Father?